

# CGS FAMILY

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Volume III, Guide 46, October 8, 2023

## Prudence

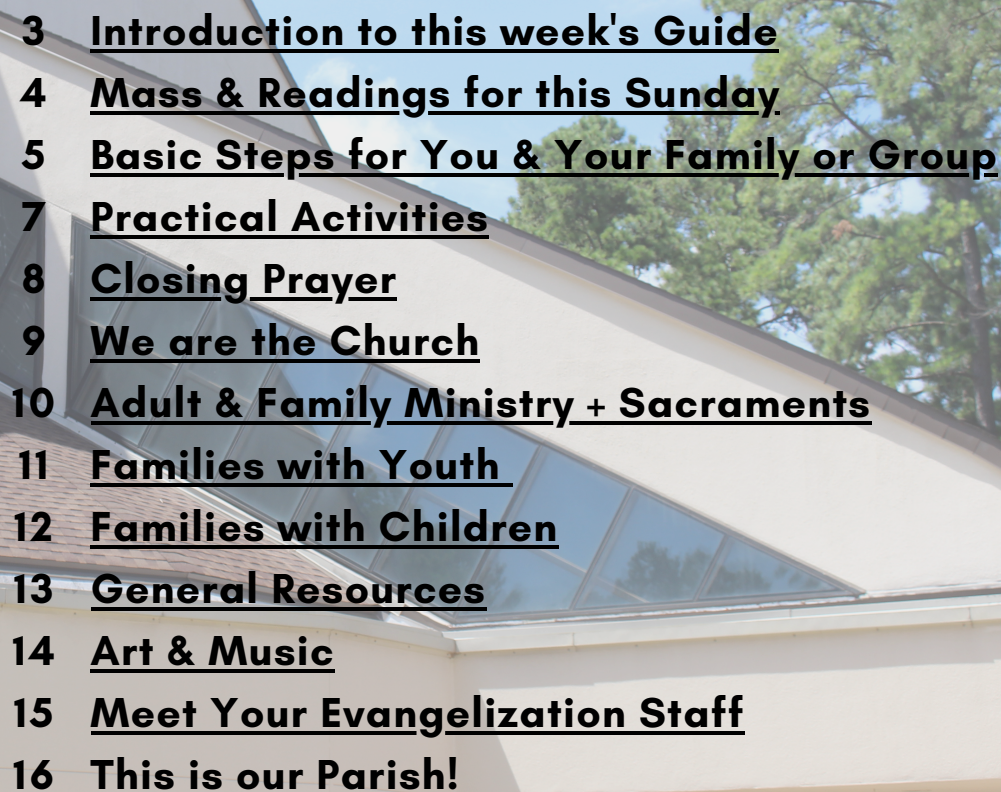


Why do I exchange God's  
blessings and opportunities for  
things that aren't as good?

[www.cgscclchurch](http://www.cgscclchurch)



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**All underlined text in  
this Guide is linked!  
Just click!**



**How is this Guide working for you and your household or small group?**

Share a resource, activity, or picture/video of what you are doing in your Domestic Church.

For questions, comments, and feedback, please contact us at

**[discipleship@cgscc.church](mailto:discipleship@cgscc.church)**

# Welcome

## CHRIST THE GOOD SHEPHERD FAMILY!

Welcome to our weekly CGS Guide that helps our parish families to grow in knowledge of the faith and deepen our relationship with Jesus as his disciples. As we encounter Jesus, we come to know him, love him, and serve him so that we can be reasonably happy in this life and happy with him forever in heaven.



Very Rev. James Burkart  
Pastor



### Choosing the Greatest Good

In the journey of faith and life, it's not uncommon to encounter moments where we feel we may be choosing less meaningful things over the blessings and opportunities that God offers. This is a universal human experience and can be rooted in various factors. Weakness, laziness, lack of trust, ignorance of the true teachings of Christ and his Church, lack of appropriate accountability to others, and many other reasons contribute to this struggle. Growing in a life of faith, hope, love requires dedication on our part, though also realizing that we cannot save ourselves and we need the mercy of God.

The saints are fitting models for us, as they excel in the virtue of prudence. Prudence is the virtue that disposes practical reason to discern our true good in every circumstance and to choose the right means of achieving it (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #1806) By growing faith and relationship with Christ, their relationship with the Lord guides their choices and priorities. Choosing the greatest good over worldly values, possessions, and concerns is a fundamental aspect of the lives of saints, rooted in their strong commitment to their faith and Christian virtues. Holy people prioritize the supreme good over worldly values by cultivating a deep relationship with God, practicing Christian virtues, serving others, and embracing detachment from material possessions. Their lives serve as examples of how one can navigate the challenges of the world while remaining focused on eternal truths and the ultimate good in accordance with their faith. The saints are known for embodying Christian virtues such as humility, selflessness, and detachment from material possessions. They constantly strive to live out these virtues in their daily lives, putting them ahead of worldly concerns. Most of all, holy people find true peace. Life is difficult, but no one can steal their joy because they have found the one thing that truly matters and actually lasts. In this Guide, let us explore ways we can seek God's grace and peace in the blessings and opportunities he offers.

**Ivana T. Meshell**

**HOW HAVE YOU SEEN GOD PRESENT AND ACTIVE IN YOUR LIFE THIS WEEK?**





## **The Holy Mass**

**The liturgy is the summit toward which the activity of the Church is directed, at the same time, it is the font from which all her power flows. (Cf. SC #10)**

**Why go to Mass?**

**Christ the Good Shepherd Mass Schedule**

**Find Mass Anywhere**

**A Message About Mass to the Parents of Young Children**

**We come to know, love, and serve Jesus Christ.**

**Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time**

readings and podcasts, Year A

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)

First Reading: Isaiah 5: 1-7

Psalms 80: 9, 12, 13-14, 15-16, 19-20

Second Reading: Philippians 4: 6-9

Gospel: Matthew 21: 33-43



PAULUS MEDIA & CHRIST THE GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC CHURCH

PRESENTS

**This Weeks Gospel Message from Brandon Riojas**

**Reflecting on the Sunday Readings**

**Sunday Connection**



# WE LEARN & BECOME DISCIPLES TOGETHER

## Getting Started

Why are we doing this?

How to manage a group discussion.

## HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE



## Question of the Week

Why do I exchange God's blessings and opportunities for things that aren't as good?

### CONNECT with our GOD through Prayer

- Let's start with *The Sign of Cross*.
- As we gather to share our faith, ask the Holy Spirit to be present. Use your own words or offer a *Prayer to the Holy Spirit*.
- As someone reads out loud the Gospel for this Sunday, listen to the Lord speaking to you.
- Listen to one other as everyone shares what in the Gospel caught their attention.
- Pray the *Collect*--opening prayer of Sunday Mass.

Family life is the first place where children learn how to pray as the Church. Through family prayer, children experience the first witness of Christ's living memory.

Points of Understanding  
Grade 3, #4.4.1

### CONNECT with our daily LIVES

Have I ever rejected a gift from God? And if so, why? Is it because I didn't understand the gift or was it for another reason?



## WHAT IS THE CHURCH'S TEACHING?

### POINTS OF UNDERSTANDING

Where they come from and ways to use them.



Choose from among the following Scriptures and teachings for reading, prayer, and discussion.

#### **In the HOLY SCRIPTURE we read:**

- The naive believe everything but those who practice prudence are wise. Proverbs 14:15
- When we are sent out into the world we must be prudent yet open. Matthew 10:16
- We must strive to understand the will of God for us. Ephesians 5:17

#### **In the Catechism of the Catholic Church**

- Prudence is the virtue that disposes practical reason to discern our true good in every circumstance and to choose the right means of achieving it, #1806
- Prudence disposes the practical reason to discern, in every circumstance, our true good and to choose the right means for achieving it. #1835

**The virtue of prudence is one of the Cardinal virtues which are are firm attitudes, stable dispositions, habitual perfections of intellect and will that govern our actions, order our passions, and guide our conduct according to reason and faith. They make possible ease, self-mastery, and joy in leading a morally good life. The virtuous man is he who freely practices the good.**  
**Catechism of the Catholic Church, #1804**

#### **Discuss**

1. Do I think I practice the virtue of prudence often? How?
2. How have I experienced the lack of prudence in my life? How have I seen the consequences of it?
3. How can I become more aware of the goodness in God's blessings over my own desires?

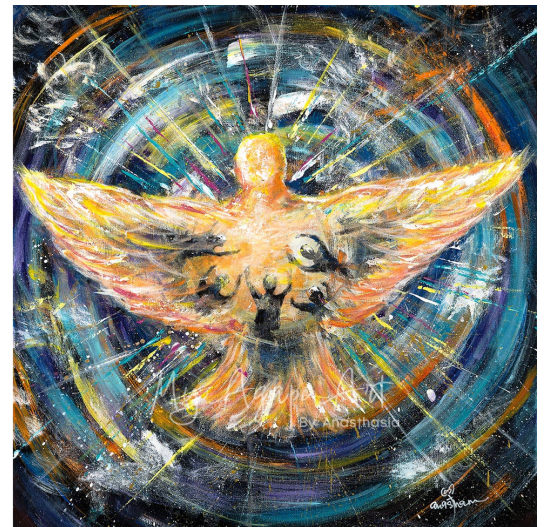
**Want more? Go Deeper!**

**Suggestions for Making Better Choices**



#### **Reflection Question**

In what emotional state or season of my life do I find myself most often exchanging God's blessings for something else?



**Praise Like Heaven**



## CONNECT with OTHERS...

### Living the Gospel with commitment & action.

What is one thing I am willing to change in my life so that by a life lived with prudence, I may seek and find goodness, truth, and beauty in life?



### Practical Activities



#### For the Individual- **"Saints Friends"**

As mentioned in this Guide, the saints provide wonderful examples for us. Take a look at Jeremy's Hearne's *Saints of the Month* on page 9, and if you haven't yet listened to his *Saints Friends* podcast, you are in for a treat! Jeremy really makes saints' stories interesting and fun. Make the saints YOUR friends this week.



#### For Couples- **Look for Christ in Your Spouse**

Identify a way you can look for Christ in your spouse today. In what ways are they struggling? How can you show them compassion to your spouse in need? In what ways can you support them, bearing lovingly with the other's struggles for the sake of Christ?



#### For the Domestic Church- **Growing in Scripture**

This week take the time as a family to gather and read a Scripture passage on prudence. After reading it once, re-read the passage and pick a word or phrase that stood out to you and discuss it as a family. Scripture Passages on Prudence: [Proverbs 2](#), [Proverbs 4](#), [Proverbs 8](#), [Proverbs 13](#), or [Proverbs 16](#).



#### Missionary Mindset- **Foster Growth in Prudence**

The truth is it is easy to avoid sin when you are doing good. There are opportunities to serve others and do good. This week, take time to talk to your fellow parishioners, friends, and family and ask them how you can pray for them and how they can pray for you to allow God's grace to work for you and others.



## Building Your Church at Home

Your household is where "church" begins. Your parish is here to help you with support, resources, small Faith Groups, and gathered activities on our campus throughout the year. Visit our website or contact us if you need help.

For more ideas on how to build your home as a Domestic Church, go to: [www.domestic-church.com](http://www.domestic-church.com) or visit *The Family Fully Alive*, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, or [Tools for Building a Domestic Church](#) by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

## Closing Prayer

- We sign ourselves with the Sign of Cross.
- According to what we reflected on, or whatever is in my heart share a petition. At the end we all say: **Lord hear our prayer.**
- Then we can pray the Our Father, Hail Mary and the Glory be...
- As we finish, let us share a sign of peace with each other.



**"Let us pray that families grow closer together, and together, closer to God." Fr. James**

### Prayer for the Gift of Prudence

Jesus, artful Master of Parables,  
Your prudence eluded the hypocrites.  
Your actions were known before creation,  
Displaying all the wisdom of Your prudence.  
Eternity must have attended to minutia.  
Being prudent in Your best interest,  
You considered all potential consequences,  
Securing the outcome of Your earthly life.  
Grant me the prudence to always be cautious  
And sensitive to the basic needs of others.  
Jesus, You have shown great foresight,  
Prudence truly originates from Your Being.  
Amen.

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### **AT THE END OF THE LESSON OR END OF THE WEEK**

From what you have learned, how would you now answer the Question of the Week?

**Why do I exchange God's blessings and opportunities for things  
that aren't as good?**



# WE ARE THE CHURCH

## What Makes us Catholic? The Cardinal Virtues

The Catechism of the Catholic Church discusses the merits of the four Cardinal Virtues: "To live well is nothing other than to love God with all one's heart, with all one's soul and with all one's efforts; from this it comes about that love is kept whole and uncorrupted (through temperance). No misfortune can disturb it (and this is fortitude). It obeys only [God] (and this is justice), and is careful in discerning things, so as not to be surprised by deceit or trickery (and this is prudence)."

CCC #1809



Temperance

Prudence

Fortitude

Justice

### Word of the Week - Prudence

Prudence is one of the four cardinal virtues, identified by classical pagan philosophers as natural virtues and were later adopted by Church Fathers and Doctors as vital for the flourishing Christian life. With the theological virtues of faith, hope, and charity, these virtues make up the seven which combat the seven deadly sins and lead to human happiness. Prudence aids us in those moments of impact so that we can behave in the most correct of ways, in accordance with the will of God, our Father. Check out this article: **Prudence—the Unsexy Virtue.**

### Faith Groups at CGS



### Four Reasons Why Faith Groups are Vital

(Video, 2:49)

Join a small Faith Group at CGS or start one of your own!

**Ask us how.**

### Saints of the Month

by Jeremy Hearne



Podcast each Tuesday!

### **More for your Domestic Church**

Find resources for your family, household, or small Faith Group, including how to use this Guide, and much more. Visit our website OR scan the QR code with your smart phone.



# ADULT & FAMILY MINISTRY

## Adulthood

### Articles

- From the Abby // [The Virtue of Prudence: Choosing the Greatest Good](#)
- Catholic Exchange // [The Valuable Vineyard](#)
- Catholic News Agency // [Prudence](#)
- Catholic Education Resource Center // [The Virtue of Prudence](#)
- Aleteia // [How to Practice Mindfulness](#)
- The Divine Mercy // [What is Catholic Mindfulness?](#)



Special Feature this Week:

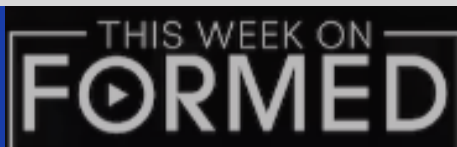
## Art as it Relates to Prudence

[Touching the Transcendentals: Truth, Goodness, and Beauty in Art](#) (article)  
St. Timothy's Classical Academy

### Videos

- **[Formed](#)**//**[Opening the Word - Reflection on this week's Gospel Reading](#)**
- The Thomistic Institute // [The Virtue of Prudence](#) -- video (9:03)
- Godsplaining // [Back to Virtue: Prudence](#) -- video (38:36)
- The Meaning of Catholic // [Prudence in What We Do](#) -- video (14:23)
- Father Ian VanHeusen // [Catholic Mindfulness](#) -- video (3:34)

## Catholic Apps



## Book Suggestions

## Current Bible Studies

## Young Adult Ministry

### The Bible Timeline - 24 Sessions

**Monday Mornings & Tuesday Evenings**

### **Ages 18-30**

Monday Mornings & Wednesday Evenings  
Other days, times and activities as announced.

## Sacramental Information



## & Becoming Catholic!

Visit the sacraments section of our parish website to find everything you need to get started with any sacrament or to inquire about becoming Catholic. Information is being continually updated. Contact [Deacon Stacy Millsap](#) our parish office if you have a question. We are glad to help you!



# FAMILIES WITH YOUTH



## Early Adolescence Jr.High, Grades 6-8

### Characteristics of Early Adolescents

**Question: What blessings have I received and how do I know they are from God?**

**Grades 5 & 6: "Venture" by Pflaum Publishing**

**Grades 7 & 8: "Visions" by Pflaum Publishing**

Ascension Presents // How to Pretty Much Discern Anything -- video (11:23)

Ascension Presents // Listening to Gods Will -- video (10:56)

Ascension Presents // Reading the Signs from God -- video (7:02)

Catholic Central // Virtues -- video (5:56)

Let no one have contempt for your youth, but set an example for those who believe, in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity.

1 Timothy 4:12



## Adolescence High School, Grades 9-12

### Characteristics of Adolescents

**Question: What blessings have I received and how do I know they are from God?**

Ascension Presents // How to Pretty Much Discern Anything -- video (11:23)

Ascension Presents // Listening to Gods Will -- video (10:56)

Ascension Presents // Reading the Signs from God -- video (7:02)

Catholic Central // Virtues -- video (5:56)



## Youth Gather at CGS

Middle school and High school meet every Wednesday 7-8:30pm

# FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

## Nursery Pages

[Gospel of the Week](#) and  
[Activity pages](#) to do with your  
Toddler and Pre-schooler

## Birth to Age 2

The role of parents at this stage is to model the example of Jesus by offering God's unconditional love to their children and to others. Parents benefit from growing in their own faith so they are able to hand on the faith to the next generation.

## Age-Specific Materials

### Pre-order Your Pflaum Gospel Weeklies

*For families who want more "hands-on" materials.*  
How to Use the Gospel Weeklies



## Early Childhood

Ages 3-5

**Question: Why do I choose bad things instead of good things?**

"Seeds" by Pflaum Publishing

The Kid's Bulletin // October 8, 2023

Brother Francis: Walking with Jesus // The Rosary Prayer in Song -- video (34:00)

### Characteristics of Young Children



## Childhood

Elementary, Grades 1-5

**Question: Why do I decide that the good things from God are not as important as the bad choices I make?**

**Grades K-1:** "Promise" by Pflaum Publishing and

**Grades 2,3 &4:** "Good News" by Pflaum Publishing

Sophia Institute // Ready to Use Lesson for Each Sunday

Brother Francis: Walking with Jesus // The Rosary Prayer in Song -- video (34:00)

The Kid's Bulletin // October 8, 2023

### Characteristics of Children



## For Parents



## Strong Catholic Family Faith

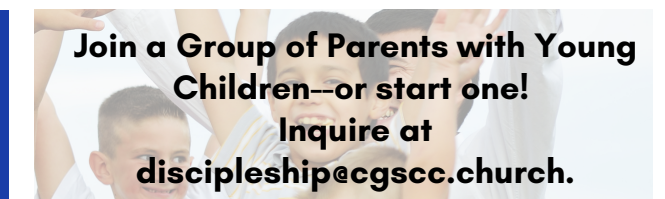
A project of Strong Catholic Families, Strong Catholic Youth Initiative



### Family Faith Practices

**Join a Group of Parents with Young Children--or start one!**

**Inquire at**  
**[discipleship@cgscc.church](mailto:discipleship@cgscc.church).**



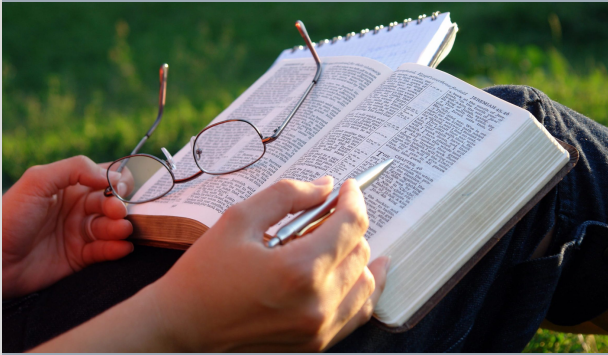
# GENERAL RESOURCES

## The Holy Bible

Online Bible via the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)

If you don't know much about the Bible or want to learn more: **Scripture Support**

Catholics use the **New American Bible Revised Edition** (NABRE) as the translation for Mass readings. There are many acceptable versions of NABRE as well as other approved translations. You may purchase from any vendor. Basic editions are available upon request at no charge. Pick one up at the parish office.



## Recommended Print Bibles

These are all by St. Mary's Press: Order directly from the publisher or search online for other vendors.

Catholic Family Connections Bible  
(digital version available)

Catholic Youth Bible (Adolescents & College)  
"Breakthrough" (Early Adolescents // Jr. High)

Catholic Children's Bible

## The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC)

Online Catechism via the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)

NEW! Simplified version of the Catechism of the Catholic Church

If you don't know much about the Catechism or want to learn more: Catechism Support

## Formed Online

Our parish subscribes to a library of online resources called **Formed**. It is excellent and free for you to use. Register at [formed.org](http://formed.org) - Just click "Sign Up as a Parishioner." Need help? Watch this video.

## Counseling & Spiritual Direction

Our parish offers **Rejoice Counseling** for individuals and families for a variety of issues and needs. You may use this online form to contact them directly.

We also offer **Spiritual Direction** for anyone interested in a spiritual companion, discerning God's will in your life. Follow the links or inquire through the parish office.

## Prayers and Praying

Catholic Link // 90 Ways To Pray...For Those Times When You're In A Prayer Rut



Prayer Requests



**Common Prayers and Formulas to Learn by Heart**

and a chart showing at what age level they should be learned.



How to create a prayer table or prayer area in your home.



# ART & MUSIC

## Sacred Art on Formed

Parish subscription free for parishioners--register once, access all content.

[Formed.org](http://Formed.org)



## Using Sacred Art to Bring the Faith Alive

[Sophia Institute](http://Sophia Institute)



## Music to Move You

Elevation Worship // The Blessing -- video (12:10)

Lauren Daigle // Thank God I do -- video (4:49)

The Hillbilly Thomist // I heard the Voice of Jesus Say -- audio (3:44)

Bethel Music // The Goodness of God -- (4:55)

## Sacred Art to Inspire You

### COVER IMAGE

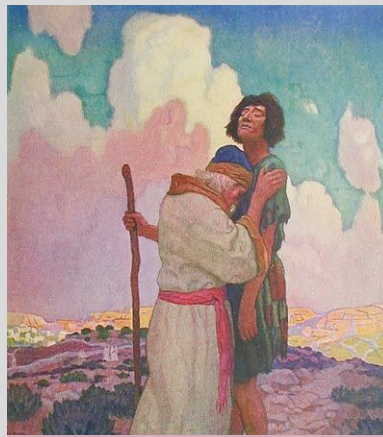
Catholic Parent Network // Prudence as a Daily Exercise: The "How To" and "Why" (Article by Soraya Sanabria)

## Le Fils Prodigue

### "The Prodigal Son"

Jean-Marie Pirot  
(known as Arcabas)  
b. 1926

Oil on canvas  
1.3 x 1.62 m  
Cappella della Riconciliazione,  
Costa Serina, Bergamo



Compare with this Image

N.C. Wyeth

The Prodigal Son



Allegory of Prudence  
by artist called Titan

In what ways do art and music help strengthen your relationship with God? Tell us!  
[discipleship@cgscc.church](mailto:discipleship@cgscc.church)

## Meet Your Evangelization & Discipleship Staff

### Helping Others to Know and Love Jesus Christ



#### **Ivana Meshell**

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## The CHURCH EXISTS IN ORDER TO EVANGELIZE

...bringing all  
humanity to  
union with God;  
this is the  
missionary  
mandate  
of the Church.

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*Pope Paul VI in  
"Evangelii Nuntiandi"  
("Evangelization in  
the Modern World"),  
1975.*



## Evangelize with us for the glory of God!

[discipleship@cgscc.church](mailto:discipleship@cgscc.church)



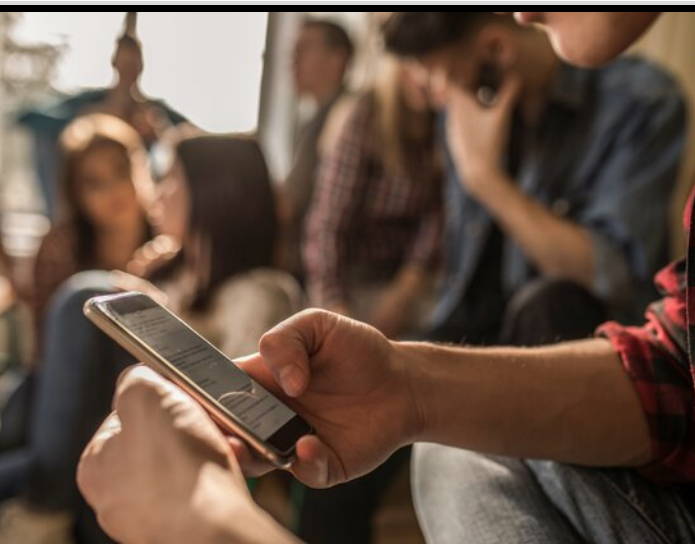


## Our Vision Statement

Building a community of love and hope by putting our faith into action.

These Guides are produced weekly by our Office of Evangelization and Discipleship and are posted on our website each Friday evening: [cgscs.church/cgs-family-guides](http://cgscs.church/cgs-family-guides)

**"HELPING PEOPLE TO KNOW AND LOVE JESUS CHRIST."**



[discipleship@cgscs.church](mailto:discipleship@cgscs.church)



Official Page:

[Christ the Good Shepherd Catholic Church](#)



@cgsyouth



Join us on Flocknote:

Text CGS to 84576.

You will receive emails & texts from CGS according to your preferences.

18511 Klein Church Rd. Spring, TX 77379

(281) 376-6831 \* [cgscs.church](http://cgscs.church)

Very Reverend James Burkart, Pastor

The contents of this Guide are in accordance with the teachings of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and the *Catechetical Framework for Lifelong Faith Formation* of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, under the pastoral care of Archbishop Daniel Cardinal DiNardo. Accordingly, the *Catechetical Framework* serves the definitive aim of catechesis which is to put people not only in touch with, but also in communion and intimacy, with Jesus Christ.